

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00958 071922Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06

OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01

PRS-01 MCT-01 /115 W

-----025356 071924Z /50

R 071835Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6110

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MZ

SUBJECT: MOATIZE COAL EXPLOSION

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE HAS ESTABLISHED A THREE MEMBER COMMISSION COMPOSED OF DEVELOPMENT MINISTER MARCELINO DOS SANTOS, FOREIGN MINISTER JOAPUIM CHISSANO AND LABOR MINISTER MARIANO MATSINHA TO LOOK INTO THE CAUSE OF THE MOATIZE MINE DISASTER AND THE VIOLENT DISTURBANCES THAT TOOK PLACE AFTERWARDS. THE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION DEPARTED FOR MOATIZE THE MORNING OF AUG. 4 AND IS EXPECTED TO REPORT BACK TO PRESIDENT MACHEL THIS WEEKEND.

2. AFTER VISITING THE SITE OF THE EXPLOSION ON AUG 3, MOZAMBIQUE'S NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF GEOLOGY AND MINES, SANTOS GARCIA, TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE EXPLOSION COULD HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY "SABOTAGE" OR BY AN EXCESSIVE BUILD-UP OF COAL DUST OR

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NATURAL GAS IN THE SHAFT. ALTHOUGH IT WAS TOO SOON TO DETERMINE WHAT ACTUALLY CAUSED THE EXPLOSION, SANTOS VOLUNTEERED THAT SAFETY CONDITIONS AT MOATIZE WERE "VERY DEFICIENT" AND WERE IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT.

3. THE PRESS TODAY ALSO REPORTED THE ARRIVAL OF A THIRTY MEMBER MINE RESCUE TEAM FROM OVERSEAS BUT DID NOT DISCLOSE THAT

THEY WERE SOUTH AFRICANS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THE GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY UPSET ABOUT THE LARGE NUMBER OF MOZAMBICAN MINERS KILLED AT MOATIZE, ITS DECISION TO SEND A VERY HIGH RANKING COMMISSION TO THE SITE WAS MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO DETERMINE WHAT PROVOKED THE VIOLENCE AND DEATHS OF THE NINE EUROPEANS AT THE MINE FOLLOWING THE EXPLOSION. THERE IS CONCERN AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT THAT THE OTHER EXPATRIATES AT THE MINE WILL INSIST ON LEAVING, THUS FORCING THE CLOSING OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MINE IN MOZAMBIQUE. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO FEARS THAT THIS RACIAL VIOLENCE MAY FRIGHTEN KEY EUROPEAN PERSONNEL WORKING AT CABORA BASA (ONLY 60 MILES AWAY) INTO LEAVING THE COUNTRY.
DE PREE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COAL, EXPLOSIONS, MINING INDUSTRY, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1680841
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TAGS: EMIN, PINS, MZ
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